

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S JOBS CABINET

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June 24, 2008

The rise of globalization in the 21st century has created an entirely new marketplace for talented individuals – one where Colorado not only competes with Massachusetts and California, but with India and Japan as well. In order for Colorado to compete nationally and internationally, we need to create a sustainable workforce for this state – and to do that, we must align the goals of our business community with the goals of our education and workforce communities.

One of the strengths of this state is our diversity – we cannot find a one-sized fits all solution that will benefit the people of this state. Each region in this state has its own needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. To address this issue, the Jobs Cabinet has been split into five subcommittees by economic region: the Eastern Plains, Western Slope, Mountain Resorts, San Luis Valley and the Front Range. As part of the first phase of its work, the Jobs Cabinet has been holding community outreach meetings in these regions over the past two months.

Each community outreach meeting includes representatives from higher education, K-12, workforce, local business and economic development. During these meeting, the group is asked to identify their long-term goals for the Jobs Cabinet, as well as potential issues, demographics and industries in their regions. The matrix below summarizes the group's discussion and goals for this particular session.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website.

Sincerely,

The Jobs Cabinet Co-Chairs

Jim Lyons

Teresa Taylor

Ruth Ann Woods

EASTERN PLAINS REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING GOALS

La Junta, Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Attraction, Retention and Education	Regionally-Coordinated Development	Funding	Alignment
Identify local employers immediate needs and facilitate local educational programs to meet those needs; begin in K-12 institutions as well as in local colleges with opportunity for adult life long learning; all resulting in funding the development of vocational/ education programs to match and serve business growth in the region	Create incentives for coordinated community and economic development funding, such as: 1. Block funding for infrastructure 2. Developing a return-on-investment model for infrastructure development	Funding directed to regions with local control and flexibility to establish programs to meet local needs and assurance of adequate funding.	True alignment of workforce skills with educational opportunities and satisfied employers through coordinated regional and statewide approaches.
Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success
Identify and facilitate local education for immediate needs, and create vocational tracks for high schools and community colleges	Coordinated economic development on a regional basis and create effective technical and financial assistance to local govt's	Guaranteed funding	Consistent regional definitions statewide
Training and education opportunities for adult learners	Targeted infrastructure development	Removal of funding barriers	True alignment between business and educational skills to ensure satisfied employers
Focus on higher quality of secondary ed and reduce the high school drop out rate	More Jobs based on domestic revenue (create more local jobs)	A regionally focused funding stream for economic development funding	Better alignment of state agencies

ISSUES, DEMOGRAPHICS, INDUSTRIES, AND STRENGTHS

La Junta, Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Targeted Demographics or Populations	Regional Strengths	Regional Economic Drivers over the next 10 years	Issues on the Plains
Low-educational levels and communication skills	Low cost of living; affordable housing	Alternative Energy (Wind, Solar, Ethanol, Bio-diesel)	FUNDING
Unmotivated and Lack of work ethic	Good climate, clean air	Non-Importable Manufacturing	Involving necessary entities and getting them involved
Aging workforce	Capacity for growth, especially in terms of schools, hospitals and water availability	Agricultural Research	Existing laws (CSAP) are problematic; communication barriers exist
ESL	Coordinated eco-devo and education efforts already in place (SEBREA)	Tourism	Workforce Apathy; Educational Gaps
Single Parents	Our people, their work-ethic, their values, their dependability, resourcefulness and honesty.	Healthcare	Resistance to change
At-Risk Youth	Business will be a high priority – not lost in a crowd	Retirement Communities	Geographic size of region
Veterans	Transportation Access (crossroads of highway's 50 and 287)	Corrections Facilities	Employability
Disabled Population	Low crime rates		Availability of Housing
			Competing with Front Range